

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

DEONTAE D. GRIFFIN,

Defendant.

8:13-CR-223

TENTATIVE FINDINGS

The Court has received the revised presentence investigation report in this case. Both the United States and the defendant (filings [106](#) and [108](#)) have filed objections to the presentence report. The defendant has also filed a sentencing proposal (filing [107](#)) suggesting alternatives to incarceration.

IT IS ORDERED:

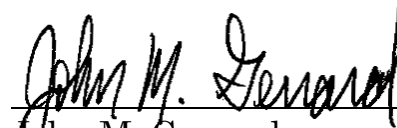
1. The Court will consult and follow the Federal Sentencing Guidelines to the extent permitted and required by *United States v. Booker*, [543 U.S. 220 \(2005\)](#), and subsequent cases. In this regard, the Court gives notice that, unless otherwise ordered, it will:
  - (a) give the advisory Guidelines respectful consideration within the context of each individual case and will filter the Guidelines' advice through the [18 U.S.C. § 3553\(a\)](#) factors, but will not afford the Guidelines any particular or "substantial" weight;
  - (b) resolve all factual disputes relevant to sentencing by the greater weight of the evidence and without the aid of a jury;
  - (c) impose upon the United States the burden of proof on all Guidelines enhancements;
  - (d) impose upon the defendant the burden of proof on all Guidelines mitigators;
  - (e) depart from the advisory Guidelines, if appropriate, using pre-*Booker* departure theory; and

- (f) in cases where a departure using pre-*Booker* departure theory is not warranted, deviate or vary from the Guidelines when there is a principled reason justifying a sentence different than that called for by application of the advisory Guidelines, again without affording the Guidelines any particular or "substantial" weight.
2. Both the United States and the defendant (filings 106 and 108) have filed objections to the presentence report, urging the Court to determine the defendant's Guidelines range based on the drug quantity stated in the plea agreement. The United States also notes that the defendant was charged with possessing methamphetamine mixture, not actual methamphetamine. Filing 108. And the defendant objects to the PSR insofar as it states that the defendant has not yet satisfied all the conditions for safety valve relief. Filing 106 at 2. The Court will resolve these objections, and the defendant's eligibility for safety valve relief, at sentencing.
  3. The defendant has filed a sentencing proposal (filing 107) asking the Court to consider alternatives to incarceration, and recommend that the defendant be permitted to serve whatever sentence is imposed as close to Los Angeles, California, as possible. The Court will ask counsel and the probation officer to research sentencing alternatives, and will consider the defendant's request and resolve it at sentencing.
  4. Except to the extent, if any, that the Court has sustained an objection, granted a motion, or reserved an issue for later resolution in the preceding paragraph, the parties are notified that the Court's tentative findings are that the presentence report is correct in all respects.
  5. If any party wishes to challenge these tentative findings, that party shall, as soon as possible (but in any event no later than three (3) business days before sentencing) file with the Court and serve upon opposing counsel an objection challenging these tentative findings, supported by a brief as to the law and such evidentiary materials as are required, giving due regard to the local rules of practice governing the submission of evidentiary materials. If an evidentiary hearing is requested, such filings should include a statement describing why a hearing is necessary and how long such a hearing would take.
  6. Absent timely submission of the information required by the preceding paragraph, the Court's tentative findings may become final and the presentence report may be relied upon by the Court without more.

7. Unless otherwise ordered, any objection challenging these tentative findings shall be resolved at sentencing.

Dated this 27th day of June, 2014.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Gerrard", is written over a horizontal line.

John M. Gerrard  
United States District Judge